

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17 and 18 have been examined in the current Office Action. Claims 6-11, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 112, second paragraph, claims 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Replacement Drawings

Applicant submits herewith 4 sheets of replacement drawings with Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 being corrected. Applicant submits that such corrections conform to the disclosure of the specification, and as such, do not disclose new matter.

In particular, regarding Figs. 4-6, the non-limiting embodiment of the specification at pgs. 20-22, discloses that still molten resin material present in the resin reservoir is pushed back into the gate. In other words, the resin would have to be molten at least in the gate (runner 7). However, as shown in Fig. 4, as originally filed, the same hatching is used to refer to the molten resin as well as the resin solidified portion. In order to avoid confusion, Applicant is submitting herewith corrected Figs. 4-6 to more accurately depict the non-limiting embodiment described in the specification.

Similar corrections are provided to Figs. 10-12. Support for the corrections to Figs. 10-12 are provided in the non-limiting embodiments on pgs. 28-29 of the specification. Again, Applicant submits that such corrections are for clarification and no new matter is added.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/622,360

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith 4 sheets of Replacement Drawings.

Attachment: 4 Replacement Sheets

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge the drawing submission and indicate whether such drawings are acceptable.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 6-11, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. However, since claims 6-11, 15, 17 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,340,303 to Maus et al. (“Maus”)

Claims 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maus. However, since claims 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Maus, JP Publication No. 02-067115A to Ikuo (“Ikuo”) and JP Publication No. 09-262880 to Kunio (“Kunio”)

Claims 7, 9 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maus in view of Ikuo and Kunio. However, since claims 7, 9 and 11 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Maus, Kunio and Ikuo

Claims 1-5, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maus in view of Kunio and Ikuo.

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 1 recites that molten resin still present in the resin reservoir is pushed back into the gate by the cut punch, at a time when the resin material in direct contact with the dies is gradually solidified.

Based on the Examiner comments, it appears that the Examiner maintains that Maus discloses the above features recited in claim 1. For example, the Examiner maintains that Maus discloses a, “process of removing the sprue from the mold while the material is still hot.” As support for his statement, the Examiner refers to col. 2, lines 18-32 of Maus. However, such portion merely discloses prior art configurations of a sprue having rib elements, and associated problems with the ribs.

Irrespective of the above, the Examiner has not indicated where Maus discloses that molten resin still present in the resin reservoir 12 is pushed back into the gate by the cut punch 9, at a time when the resin material in direct contact with the dies 1, 2 is gradually solidified, as recited in claim 1. Applicant submits that Maus fails to teach or suggest such a feature. Rather, Maus merely discloses configurations such that after an optical disk 4 is solidified by cooling, the flange and sprue are still attached to the optical disk (col. 4, lines 41-67). There is no

discussion of how or *when* the sleeve 9 (i.e. alleged cut punch) is operated. Thus, Applicant submits that Maus fails to teach or suggest at least the above recited feature of claim 1.

Accordingly, since Kunio and Ikuo fail to cure the above-noted deficient teachings of Maus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

B. Claims 2-5

Since claims 2-5 are dependent upon claim 1, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency.

In regard to claim 5, the Examiner maintains that a change in depth for the movement of the cut punch into the resin reservoir is merely a change in shape and size (pg. 5 of Office Action). Applicant notes that such feature is not recited in claim 5, but rather, is recited in canceled claim 11. Nevertheless, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the comments provided in the February 23, 2004 Response, as evidence that the depth ratio is not "merely" a change in shape and size.

C. Claim 13

Since claim 13 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited references for at least reasons analogous to those as presented above.

D. Claim 14

Since claim 14 is dependent upon claim 13, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

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VI. Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 19 and 20 to provide more varied protection for the present invention. Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

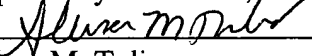
VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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(Since January 1, 2005 fell on a Saturday)

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